REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 30-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are amended; and Claim 3 is canceled by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.[1] No new matter is presented.

In the Final Official Action of March 10, 2006 (herein "the Official Action"), Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sachs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865, hereinafter, "Sachs") in view of Marko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,686,880, hereinafter "Marko"); Claims 4-5 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sachs in view of Marko and in further view of Stefick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012, hereinafter "Stefick"); and Claims 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sachs in view of Marko and Stefick and in further view of Umbreit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,787, hereinafter "Umbreit").

The Advisory Action of September 21, 2006 indicated that the rejection of Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was withdrawn in light of the arguments presented in the response of September 11, 2006.

In response to the above noted rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 4 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus including an acquisition means for acquiring information on a radio broadcast station and

[1] e.g., specification, Figs. 1 and 25, and pp. 42-43 and 88-89.

information on an audio quiz question presented by the radio broadcast station. A generation means then generates radio broadcast station identification information and content identification information on the basis of the information acquired by the acquisition means. A storage means then stores the radio broadcast station identification information and the content identification information by associating the radio broadcast station identification information with the content identification information. The information processing apparatus also includes a transmission means for transmitting information stored in the storage means to a second information processing apparatus in response to a request made by the second information processing apparatus through a network.

Independent Claim 4, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the remarks presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 4.

Turning to the applied references, Sachs describes a method for electronically viewing and distributing digital contents. Specifically, Sachs describes a virtual book store (40) that maintains a list of content keys associated with contents stored in a repository (50). When a user (10) purchases a digital book, a secure envelope is formed by encrypting the content key with the session key.[2] The user may then access the digital content using the secure envelope and a URL corresponding to the digital content.

Sachs, however, fails to teach or suggest the various features recited in amended independent Claim 1 related to acquiring information on a ***radio broadcast station*** and information on an ***audio quiz question*** presented by the radio broadcast station. Further, Sachs fails to teach or suggest generating identification information based on the acquired information, storing the generated identification information, and transmitting the stored identification information, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

[2] Sachs, col. 4, lines 47-57.

Turning to the applied secondary reference, Marko describes a receiver configured to receive a broadcast information request message and initiate a transmission response based on the received broadcast message.[3] Specifically, Marko describes a receiver configured to receive broadcast signals from a digital broadcast system, and to transmit signals via a second communication system that provides a receiver with a reverse communications path.[4]

Marko, however, fails to teach or suggest acquiring information on a radio broadcast station and information on an audio quiz question presented by the radio broadcast station and "generating radio broadcast station identification information and content identification information for identifying the audio quiz question on the basis of the acquired information," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Independent Claim 4 was further rejected in view of Stefick. Stefick describes a system similar to Sachs, and relates to a digital library including a fee accounting mechanism for reporting fees associated with the distribution and use of digital works.[5] Stefick specifically relates to a repository for controlling access to, and charging fees, associated with distribution of digital works.

Thus, Stefick clearly is not directed to the broadcast of an audio quiz question presented from a radio broadcast station, and fails to teach or suggest the various required by independent Claims 1 and 4.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Sachs, Marko, nor Stefick, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest acquiring information on ***a radio broadcast station*** and information on ***an audio quiz question*** presented by the radio broadcast station; generating identification information based on this acquired information; storing the generated identification information; and transmitting the stored information to a second information processing apparatus, as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 4.

[3] Marko, Abstract.
[4] Id. col. 2, lines 22-26.
[5] Stefick, Abstract.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sachs in view of Marko, Stefick, and Umbreit. As discussed above, Sachs, Marko, nor Stefick, neither alone, nor in combination, teach nor suggest the above differentiated features recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 4. Likewise, Umbreit fails to remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest Applicant's pending Claims 1, 4, 5 and 30-34 which include the above distinguished limitations by virtue of independent recitation or dependency.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5 and 30-34 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 4, 5 and 30-34 is patentably distinguished over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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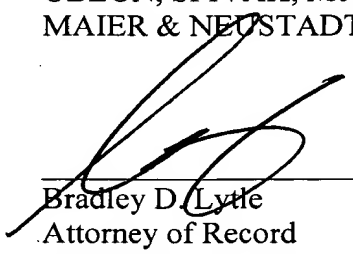

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